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Security Information

German Democratic Republic

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF OCEAN-GOING SHIPS

[redacted] the Zentrales Schiffbau-Konstruktions-und Projekt Buero Berlin VEB (People Owned & Central Designing and Planning Office for Shipbuilding, Berlin) to the Ministry for Machine Building, Minister Ziller.

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[redacted] a short resume' of the construction status of the various types of ocean-going vessels.

The plans for type I are approximately 80 percent complete and have been delivered to the Mathias Thesen Shipyard [in Wismar].

The steel construction drawings for type IV have been 10 percent completed and have been submitted along with other plans to DSRK (German Ship Inspection and Classification) for inspection and approval.

The Designing Office in Koepenick has begun to draw up the plans for type III. Changes suggested by the General Directorate for Water Transport (GDS) have been delaying progress. (Load capacity changed from 6,150 to 6,500 tons, narrowing of width). Originally planned for North Atlantic service to the ships are now to be built for South American service.

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[redacted] it is not clear whether the East or West coast of America is meant as a factor which is to have a decisive influence in the construction of the ships.

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According to plan the drawings for type II have not yet been begun. [redacted] the GDS has expressed the desire to change construction of this type completely (from 3,000 tons to 4,000 tons load capacity and narrowing of width). These changes have been refused [redacted] on the grounds that such deviation can only be accepted through regular official channels. Another change suggested by the GDS is the route of the ships from the Levant Coast to South Africa. [redacted] again questions as to which coast is meant.

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[redacted] the eventual consolidation of orders for type II and type III by the GDS in view of the desires of the Soviet Union is considered particularly inadvisable, since export orders for types I, II, and III are expected.

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[redacted] because of the high interest of the Soviet Union in the ocean-going vessels of the GDR the reporting office has entered into negotiations with the Soviet Register of Ships, Main Office for the GDR in Rostock, in order to observe Soviet along with GDR specifications.

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